

**Minutes**  
**Croatian Civic League Meeting**  
**Monday, January 8th, 2024, at 6:30 PM**  
**Via Zoom**  
**First of the New Year!**

**Officers:** Mike Kelly, Pres., Bob Lougen, V.P., Jan Nielsen, Treas., Katie Ripberger, Director (subbing for Mike Fantozzi, Sec’y).

**Directors:** Connie Agresti, Frank Borum, Kathy Donahoe, Jim Ferrera, Jan Perriello, Jen Resio, Amanda Robinson, Amber Torgeson, and Eileen Wren.

**Absent:** Bill Garvey, Officer-Past President, and Cheryl Garvey, Director

1. Meeting called to order 6:32 p.m. by Mike Kelly, CCL President. Quorum present.
2. No comments on December 4<sup>th</sup> minutes.
3. Treasurer’s Report and Budget evaluation as of December 31<sup>st</sup> (Jan Nielsen, Treas.)
  - a. Total balance of funds as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 - \$31,165.03
  - b. No regular revenues in December
  - c. Refund from cancelled Fall event - \$1,200
  - d. Worker’s Comp. Insurance Adjustment – \$50.00 increase
  - e. Kid’s programs - Santa, cocoa, and cookies expense- \$100.00
  - f. Security revenues – \$900.00
  - g. November security patrols expense – \$970.00
4. Budget:
  - a. Lengthy discussion as to what a reasonable amount CCL should have in reserve in the budget. No decision.
  - b. Goal to reduce any perceived “excess” or residual carryover in budget over a course of three years.
  - c. Balance of approximately \$31K currently, to be reduced with a goal over time to a \$20K balance.
  - d. Pros and cons of a proposal to invest funds allocated for Security in a separate savings, interest bearing account instead of co-mingled with the operating account is being considered.
  - e. Several members are opposed to using funds from our general operating to cover security.
  - f. Difficult to budget for Security as it comes in piecemeal every month over the course of a year.
  - g. Revenue:
    - Membership dues for 2024 discussion ensues.

- After considerable thought and discussion, a motion to raise couples dues \$5.00 to \$80.00 and reduce singles dues \$5.00 to \$45.00 passed.

h. Proposed Expenses for 2024: Total \$29,300 with some increases and some reductions:

- Fall event proposal- reduced to \$3000.00
- Bank service charge- reduced slightly to \$50.00
- VBCCO and SCC – \$100.00
- Constant Contact and Marketing - \$500.00
- Insurance - \$2,500.00
- Social events - \$5,600.00 (adult socials)
- Landscaping – increased to \$350.00
- Logo Wear - reduced to \$500.00
- Member recruitment - \$50.00
- Adopt- A- Muster - \$100.00
- Office supplies – increased to 150.00
- Welcome Baskets- reduced to 600.00
- Spring Fling - \$11,000
- Website support - increased to \$600.00
- Kid’s programs - increased to \$1200.00

5. Social and Children’s Programs: (Amanda Robinson/Katie Ripberger)

- a. Looking into alternatives for the Fall annual meeting such as an annual brunch.
- b. No other plans have been formulated at this point.

6. Security: (Connie Agresti)

- a. Spent \$4K more than budgeted in 2023 on security with some residual money from 2022.
- b. Some topics for present and future discussion include: How should Security be handled and how revenues might be increased.
- c. Currently we have 310 hours allocated for Security - 15 hours per month in Winter, up to 45/mo. in summer months (June-August) and declining in Fall and winter months.
- d. We need \$20K this year for security. 10 to 1 in our recent survey want increased Security.
- e. There are multiple issues for which we need Security, not just for speeding
- f. \$15K proposed for “planning purposes only” for expenses for Security. Some adjustments may be needed down the road. Motion passed.
- g. Spring Fling:
  - Connie proposed that the four hours at Spring Fling for police officers at 65.00/hr. should come out of Spring Fling revenue, not Security funds.
  - Ticket costs for Spring Fling to be determined as we get closer to the event.
- h. Updated report addressed on Security survey.
- i. Note on NextDoor re: watches and warnings due to high winds.

7. VBCCO (Jim Ferrera)

- a. Mayoral forum in May. Reservations required. Five or six candidates for mayor.
- b. Jan 24th meeting. City Manager, Patrick Duhaney and Planning Director, Kathy Warren, will be present.
- c. Chris Taylor, Councilman from District 8, discussed flood protection.
- d. STRs - City focusing more on improving collections. \$400K shortage because their summons process has had problems. Working on fixing this.

8. Membership: (Lougen/Kelly) – NSTR

9. Website: (Bob Lougen)

- a. Will be updated. Website to be deactivated for a couple of weeks. In order to get on the website, we will need to sign up for 2024 and pay our new dues as members.

10. Welcome Baskets (Cheryl Garvey)

- a. Reduction in neighborhood housing activity has decreased number of baskets needed.

11. Landscaping (Cheryl Garvey)

- a. Newly hired landscapers finally returned her calls.

12. Beach (Mike Kelly)

- a. Contract has been approved. Read newsletter for details. This comprises a year's worth of effort. Sand drop could be as early as Feb or March this year or same time period in 2025.
- b. Request for Information out to study the weir at Croatan Beach.
- c. Twilight Lane entrance concrete issue has been fixed by the City.
- d. Metal cage hazard on beach has been called into City and will be called in again.

13. Logo Wear: (Katie Ripberger)

- a. Possibly shift to the company used last year for people to order for themselves.

14. Old Business: (Mike Kelly)

- a. The Whaley's have continued to be harassed by people crossing the speed table adjacent to their house. If you see it yourself, please report your observations to Mike Kelly, President.

15. New Business: (Kathy Donahoe) (Jan Perriello)

- a. Croatan Women's Club Secretary, Jackie Feagin, will coordinate CWC and CCL meetings in the future with Mike Kelly, to avoid overlapping meetings.

- b. Jan Perriello is now chair of STR committee.
  - Ron Swan has resigned.
  - Members of this committee: Jim Ferrera, Jan Perriello, and Linda Richards.
  - Survey of the “illegals” to be conducted and sent to zoning for action.

16. Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.

**Next meeting: Monday, February 5th, 2024, at 6:30 PM  
Via Zoom**